(f) In addition to the above envisaged capacity addition programme, measures being taken to reduce the gap between demand and supply include (i) expediting commissioning of new generating capacity (ii) implementation of short gestation projects (iii) improving the performance of existing power stations (iv) reduction of Transmission and Distribution losses (v) implementation of better demand management and energy conservation measures (vi) arranging transfer of energy from surplus to deficit areas, and (vii) promotion of private sector investment in the Power Sector.

Per Capita Debt of an Indian

*720 SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of debts that India has to wipe off as on date to various countries;

(b) what is the per capita debt of an Indian;

(c) by when these debts are likely to be cleared by the new economic policy; and

(d) whether any approximate year in this regard can be fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) As per the latest available data, the total amount of external debt including NRI deposits and defence debt outstanding on India is estimated to be US dollar 90386 million as at the end of September, 1993.

(b) The per capita debt including defence debt was US dollar 102 at the end of March 1993.

(c) and (d) External debts are being repaid on due dates according to the terms and conditions of each loan agreement mutually agreed to with the donors. The pace at which external debt can be reduced depend on the likely surplus in the balance of payments on current account and inflow of non-debt capital inflows. As of now, it is not possible to indicate the year by which the entire external debt will be wiped out.

Post Offices in Villages

7447. SHRI KAMESHWAR PASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any programme for opening post offices in the villages situated in far-away areas;

(b) if so, what are the details of the said programme and what is the number of new post offices opened in rural areas in Bihar under this pogramme; and

(c) if not, what steps Government are contemplating to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Government's objective is to progressively extend the postal network to villages which satisfy the norms prescribed in accordance with the Government's policy within the resources available.

(b) and (c) During the Eighth period, there is a target of opening 3600 extra departmental branch post offices in the country, of which 1299 have been sanctioned in the first two years. During this period, 160 such post offices have been opened in the rural areas of Bihar.